

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 101425Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3112

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

UPON RETURN FROM PORTUGAL

FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS DURING PRESS
CONFERENCE GIVEN BY HIGH COMMISSIONER VICTOR CRESPO ON
DECEMBER 9.

1. LEGISLATION COVERING CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING FOR PORTUGUESE
GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC SOON, PROVIDING WORK
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AND PENSIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL.

2. FERNANDO MAGALHAES, ACTING DIRECTOR OF A TRIBUNA, IS AWAITING TRIAL IN LISBON FOR WRITING EDITORIAL COMPROMISING DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. HIS PERSONAL QUALITIES WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE COURT'S DECISION (SEE LM A-191).

3. LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS OF FOREIGN NEWS SERVICES ARE CONVEYING A DISTORTED, ALARMIST VIEW OF MOZAMBIQUE (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED REUTERS, AFP, AND SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS). PEOPLE RETURNING TO PORTUGAL ALSO INVENT CALAMITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE TO JUSTIFY THEIR DEPARTURE. FOR BETTER INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MOZAMBIQUE AND PORTUGAL, A (GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED) NEWS SERVICE WILL BE CREATED.

4. AS A RESULT OF LUSAKA ACCORD, WHICH SERVES INTERESTS OF PORTUGUESE AND MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLES, TRANQUILITY REIGNS IN MOZAMBIQUE. A FEW PEOPLE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENT INCIDENTS OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 21, "WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED". CRESPO GUARANTEES SUCH INCIDENTS WILL NOT BE REPEATED (SIC). PERSONS THREATENING TRANQUILITY (AS IN CASE OF MAGALHAES) WILL IMMEDIATELY BE SENT TO PORTUGAL.

5. THE MAJORITY OF PERSONS STILL IN MOZAMBIQUE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 21 ARE UNDER ARREST HERE; SOME WERE SENT BACK TO PORTUGAL (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ENG. REIS COSTA AND GONCALO MESQUITELA JR.). THE GOVERNMENT WILL ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE SOON ON THOSE ACCUSED.

6. THERE WILL BE NO MORE RECRUITMENT BY THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IN MOZAMBIQUE.

7. CRESPO DOES NOT BELIEVE OR AT LEAST HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CIA-SPONSORED ACTION IN RELATION TO PORTUGAL.

COMMENT: CRESPO IS CLEARLY EXAGGERATING THE DEGREE OF TRANQUILITY EXISTING IN MOZAMBIQUE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HOWEVER, HE IMPLIES THAT THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE PREVENTED VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND THUS INDIRECTLY ACCEPTS BLAME.
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WALKER

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